

## Adverbs

### SEMESTRAL UNI - 2023 II

#### What is an adverb?

Basically, most adverbs tell you how, where, or when something is done. In other words, they describe the manner, place, or time of an action. Here are some examples:

Type	Adverb	Example
Manner	slowly	Jane drives slowly.
Place	here	The party is going to take place here.
Time	yesterday	I called him yesterday.

#### How to recognize an adverb

Many adverbs end with the suffix **-LY**. Most of these are created by adding **-LY** to the end of an adjective, like this:

Adjective	Adverb
slow	slowly
delightful	delightfully
hopeless	hopelessly
aggressive	aggressively

However, this is NOT a reliable way to find out whether a word is an adverb or not, for two reasons: many adverbs do NOT end in **-LY** (some are the same as the adjective form), and many words which are NOT adverbs DO end in **-LY** (such as kindly, friendly, elderly and lonely, which are adjectives). Here are some examples of adverbs which are the same as adjectives:

Adjective	Adverb
fast	fast
late	late
early	early

The best way to tell if a word is an adverb is to try making a question, for which the answer is the word. If the question uses how, where or when, then the word is probably an adverb. Here is an example:

Word in context	Question	Adverb?
Junko plays tennis <b>aggressively</b> .	<b>How</b> does Junko play tennis?	<b>Yes</b> — uses <b>HOW</b> .
They have a <b>small</b> house.	<b>What</b> kind of house do they have?	<b>No</b> — uses <b>WHAT KIND OF</b> , so this is an adjective.
Matthew called the police <b>immediately</b> .	<b>When</b> did Matthew call the police?	<b>Yes</b> — uses <b>WHEN</b> .

## Adverb Phrases

An adverb may be a single word, such as *quickly*, *here* or *yesterday*. However, adverbs can also be phrases, some made with prepositions, others made with infinitives. This page will explain the basic types of adverb phrases (sometimes called "adverbial phrases") and how to recognize them.

### Basic types of adverbs

In the section on adverbs, you learned about three basic types of adverb: *manner*, *place* and *time* adverbs. There are at least two more that are important. *Frequency* adverbs answer the question "How often?" about an action. *Purpose* adverbs answer the question "Why?". Here are some examples:

Type	Adverb	Example
Frequency	usually	Mika usually gets up early.
Purpose	for fun	I write computer programs for fun.

While the first example, *usually*, is a single word, the second example (*for fun*) is a phrase consisting of a preposition and a noun — in other words, it is a *prepositional phrase* which functions as an *adverb phrase*.

### Adverb phrases made with prepositions

All kinds of adverb phrases can be made with prepositions. Here are some examples:

Type	Adverb phrase	Example
Manner	with a hammer	The carpenter hit the nail with a hammer.
Place	next door	The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
Time	before the holidays	We must finish our project before the holidays.
Frequency	every month	Jodie buys two CDs every month.
Purpose	for his mother	Jack bought the flowers for his mother.

### Adverb phrases made with infinitives

Another kind of adverb phrase can be made with the infinitive form of a verb. Most of these phrases express purpose, as in these examples:

Type	Adverb phrase	Example
Purpose	to buy a car	I'm saving my money to buy a car.
Purpose	to support the team	The students all showed up to support the team.
Purpose	to show to her mother	Sally brought a painting home from school to show to her mother.

## Adverb Clauses

An adverb may be a single word such as *quickly*, *here* or *yesterday*, or a phrase such as *the day before yesterday* or *to see my mother*. However, adverbs can also be clauses, containing a subject and a full verb. This page will explain the basic types of adverb clauses (sometimes called "adverbial clauses") and how to recognize them.



## Adverbs, adverb phrases, and adverb clauses

Look at these sentences:

I saw the movie **yesterday**.

I saw the movie **on Friday**.

I saw the movie **before I left for Calgary**.

In the first sentence, “yesterday” is a one-word adverb, “on Friday” is an adverb phrase, and “before I left for Calgary” is an adverb clause. All of them answer the question “When?”, but the adverb clause has a subject (“I”) and a full verb (“left”). It is introduced by “before”, so it is a *dependent clause*. This means that it cannot stand alone: “Before I left for Calgary” would not be a full sentence. It needs a main clause (“I saw the movie”). An adverb clause, then, is a dependent clause that does the same job as an adverb or an adverb phrase.

### Types of adverb clause

There are many types of adverb clauses. Here are some examples of the most common types:

Type	Question answered	Example
Place	Where?	Wherever there are computers, there is Microsoft software.
Time	When?	After the fruit is harvested, it is sold at the market.
Cause	Why? (What caused this?)	I didn't call her because I'm shy.
Purpose	Why? (What was the reason for doing this?)	She took a computer course so that she could get a better job.
Concession	Why is this unexpected?	Although Jay has a Master's degree, he works as a store clerk.
Condition	Under what conditions?	If you save your money, you will be able to go to college.

As you can see from the examples above, most adverb clauses can be recognized because they are introduced by a particular word or phrase (such as “when” and “so that”). These words and phrases are called **subordinating conjunctions**, and there are many of them, including these:

after, before, until, while, because, since, as, so that, in order that, if, unless, whether, though, although, even though, where.